CGA announces new region’s representation on their board

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At the last Annual General Meeting held in August 2008, the directors of the Citrus Growers’ Association agreed that due to the vastness of the Northern Cape, the region would be split in two for the purpose of improving communication with the growers in the further flung reaches.

The Vaalharts region (also known as Hartswater), would remain unchanged but the citrus growers in the Upington/Kakamas region will now fall under a new region called the Oranjrivier.

The CGA’s CEO Justin Chadwick, together with the chairman Dr Hoppie Nel, visited this proud new region on 28th January, flying over the dry, arid Karoo to the surprisingly green and fertile banks of the Orange River. This new region hosted the first roadshow held this year by the CGA, and were updated on exactly what services the CGA offers its grower members. They also elected their first regional director. The meeting was very well supported by the local citrus growers, some of whom have yet to export their citrus, but all were keen and optimistic of producing top quality fruit, especially as this region may soon export to the USA due to the absence of CBS. The growers elected Kobus van Zyl as their director, with Jannie Spangenberg as his alternate. Jacques du Preez must be thanked for his time and effort in arranging the venue and ensuring that all the growers were informed of the meeting.

Vaalharts/Hartswater Region, N Cape

At the same time as the splitting of the Northern Cape into two regions for ease of management within the CGA’s structure, Michael van Niekerk, who has ably served on the CGA Board since the year 2000, has stepped down. Michael has given selflessly of his time and expertise for all these years, and although we realize he has other interests in his community on his agenda for the future, he will be greatly missed on the Board.

At a local meeting of citrus growers held in February 2009, Jannie Smit was voted in as Michael’s replacement to represent the growers in the Vaalharts region.

Jannie was born and raised in the logiese stap om boerdery te diversifiseer en met sitrusverbouing is arbeid nou dwarsdeur die jaar effektief met die verskeie vars produkte. Financial Management and Economy is met lettie getroud. Hulle het twee seuns, Riaan en Jaco, wat saam met hom in die familie boerdery is.

Kobus van Zyl is in September 1956 in Kakamas gebore waar hy ook groot geword het. Hy het as ‘n elektrisign in Kaapstad gekwalifiseer. Dit was ‘n logiese stap om boerdery te diversifiseer en met sitrusverbouing is arbeid nou dwarsdeur die jaar effektief met die verskeie vars produkte.

Hy het in 1984 met rosyntjies en wyndruiwe begin en het dit later uitgebrei na uitvoerdruiwe en skaaplase in die Boesmanland.

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Jannie Smit – new director for Vaalharts, N Cape

Kobus van Zyl is recently elected director to represent the citrus growers of the newly formed Oranjrivier region on the CGA Board.

Michael van Niekerk – outgoing director for Vaalharts, N Cape